

From: Michael
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

"We were supposed to fight for people who couldn't fight for themselves.
We were supposed to fight for Willie."
-- PFC Lowden Downey in the motion picture "A Few Good Men"

For years the corporation known as Microsoft has run roughshod over anyone and everyone who would dare to compete with them. The term 'innovate' was bandied about quite often during the anti-trust trial and I find the excessive use of that word to be the only aspect of the proceedings which was more ludicrous than the testimony of Bill Gates. Microsoft has done nothing to earn the term 'innovator'. To date they have either stolen any advanced features incorporated into their software or have bought another company which already had developed technology they wished to add to their stable.

As someone who has been deeply involved in the world of microcomputer technology and use for over twelve years I am appalled by the fashion which the Department of Justice has shirked its solemn duty to the American people. This is a company which blatantly leverages its monopoly power to vanquish any worthy competitor. They continue to tie every product they can deep into the Windows operating system. Internet Explorer virtually wiped out any viability of the Netscape browser simply by virtue of being included with the Windows distributions. Internet Explorer at the time was widely acknowledged to be an inferior application however as it was available at no additional cost to the end user it easily wrested market share from Netscape.

The fact of the matter is that Microsoft has been found guilty of violating FEDERAL LAW. No response other than the most severe of penalties is appropriate. Bear in mind that the fruits of their monopolistic behavior exist in the form of billions of dollars of cash reserves. These cash reserves, ill-gotten gains, to say the least, should be heavily fined. The company, to date, remains totally and completely unrepentant and should be broken into no less than three entities which would be allowed to have no direct dealings with one another. While you're at it, you should file charges against Bill Gates for perjury. For his so-called testimony was nothing less than misleading. Finally, the source code of the Windows operating system should be opened to the public and published as open sourced code.

Make no mistake. Your failure to fully and properly prosecute these remedies will result in an even bolder company. One which you are obviously becoming impotent to control.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY! You're supposed to fight for those of us who are not powerful enough to fight this behemoth.

If you do not act, and act wisely, Microsoft will gain more and more control over more and more business sectors. Even now they are attempting to wipe out competition in the console game market by selling their X-box at a lower cost than required for them to assemble them in the first place.

They have dipped deeply into online banking and travel. How much farther must they go before the segments of our government which act now as special interests are stopped from national, or even global, domination?

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